

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 13, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 851

Introduced by Assembly Member Nestande
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Garrick, and Jeffries)

February 17, 2011

An act to add and repeal Section 66942 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 851, as amended, Nestande. Distance learning.

Existing law establishes the various segments of the public higher education system in the state. These segments include the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would require that by January 1, 2014, and every 2 years thereafter, the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and request the Regents of the University of California, to report to the Legislature on workload and key performance data on distance learning courses, as defined. This bill would, by February 1, 2012, also require the Legislative Analyst's Office to convene a ~~task force~~ *work group* composed of *the Legislative Analyst*, ~~specified members~~ *staff* of the

Legislature, and ~~members of the administration to identify the steps needed the Department of Finance to evaluate whether it is necessary, or advisable,~~ to establish the Western Governors University, California. The ~~task force work group~~ would be required to consult with representatives of the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, ~~and the California Postsecondary Education Commission, independent California colleges and universities, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.~~ The ~~task force work group~~ would, by February 1, 2013, be required to report ~~their~~ *its* findings and recommendations to the Legislature. These provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2018.

The bill would state the intent of the Legislature relating to the Western Governors University, California, as a degree-granting institution that is self-supporting and does not receive state funding.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 66942 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 66942. (a) For purposes of data collection and reporting by
- 4 the California Community Colleges, the California State
- 5 University, and the University of California, “distance learning
- 6 course” means a course conducted with a majority of the
- 7 instructional content delivered when faculty and students are in
- 8 different locations and instruction is delivered through the use of
- 9 technology.
- 10 (b) (1) By January 1, 2014, and every two years thereafter, the
- 11 Trustees of the California State University and the Board of
- 12 Governors of the California Community Colleges shall, and the
- 13 Regents of the University of California are requested to, report to
- 14 the Legislature on workload and key performance data on distance
- 15 learning courses, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
- 16 (A) The number of students enrolled in a distance learning
- 17 course at each campus, categorized by type of delivery method for
- 18 the distance learning course.
- 19 (B) Completion rates for distance learning courses.
- 20 (C) Program completion rates for degree programs that include
- 21 exclusively distance learning courses.

(2) Student enrollment and completion rate data included in a report to be submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be made available by demographics such as age, gender, and ethnicity.

(c) (1) By February 1, 2012, the Legislative Analyst shall convene a ~~task force composed of members of the Legislature, members of the administration, and representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges to identify the steps needed~~ *work group composed of the Legislative Analyst, education policy and fiscal staff of the Legislature, and the Department of Finance to evaluate whether it is necessary, or advisable, to establish the Western Governors University, California. The task force work group shall consult with representatives of the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, and the California Postsecondary Education Commission, independent California colleges and universities, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.*

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the ~~task force work group~~ evaluate the establishment of the Western Governors University, California, as a degree-granting institution that is self-supporting and that does not receive state funding. This provision is not intended to preclude the ~~task force work group~~ from evaluating the Western Governors University, California, as a potential qualifying institution for the purposes of California's student financial aid programs.

(3) By February 1, 2013, the ~~task force work group~~ convened pursuant to this subdivision shall report to the *relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature* on the findings and recommendations of the ~~task force work group~~.

(d) (1) All reports to be submitted pursuant to this section shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this section is repealed on January 1, 2018.